The Foreign Languages Program prepares students to work in business or government, to pursue linguistic or literary studies in graduate school, or teach foreign languages on the secondary level. Classes are small, allowing for individualized instruction.

OFFERED FOREIGN LANGUAGES:

Arabic, Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Latin, Russian, and Spanish

Undergraduate Program:
Modern Foreign Language Concentration

Required courses: 30 hours

Majors must choose one of the following:

- 30 semester hours with at least 24 hours above the intermediate level of French, which must include FREN 361 or FREN 362, and at least one course on the 400 level; or
- 30 semester hours with at least 24 hours above the intermediate level of German, which must include at least one course on the 400 level; or
- 30 semester hours with at least 24 hours above the intermediate level of Spanish, which must include SPAN 320 and at least two courses on the 400 level.

B.A. (Bachelor of Arts):
120 hours

Foreign Language majors fulfill all language requirements for the Bachelor of Arts degree. Foreign Language majors in the Bachelor of Arts program must also complete a minor or a second major.

B.S. (Bachelor of Science):
120 hours

For the Bachelor of Science degree, students work in conjunction with the College of Education and Human Development to complete preparatory coursework and testing requirements in order to go into the school system for field experience and student teach in their final year at Radford University.

Undergraduate students can earn a minor by completing 18 semester hours in one specific foreign language with at least one course on the 3-400 level. A minimum grade point average of 2.0 is required.

Since one in six jobs in the Commonwealth of Virginia depends upon foreign trade, many of our graduates are working for businesses which sell abroad. Opportunities exist for foreign language majors in:

Business:
Export/import, banking, currency exchange, travel industry—airlines and travel agencies.

Government:

Many teachers employed in the area of Southwestern Virginia have been trained at Radford University.
Foreign Languages and Literatures Major

Study Abroad
The University offers several study abroad programs for intensive language practice.

Radford University has an exchange agreement with the University of Kassel in Germany. The French program offers a summer study course and also has an exchange agreement with universities in Angers and Clermont-Ferrand, France. The Spanish program offers an intensive summer program in Spain or Mexico. Mandarin students study in China in the summer.

The Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures requires that all majors in a modern foreign language include a study abroad or intensive immersion experience as part of their language study.

Co-Curricular Activities
Students are encouraged to participate in such activities as conversation hours, film festivals, field trips, and language clubs.

Scholarships
The department offers several work-study scholarships including special positions for native informants in Chinese, French, German, Spanish or Arabic.

Credit by Examination
Six semester hours of credit will be granted when the first two foreign language courses are taken on the second year level or beyond (above the first nine hours in Spanish) and a GPA of 2.4 or better is received for these first two courses.

Facilities
In the Foreign Language Lab, students have access to computers for web access and for language learning software, and to DVD’s for individualized viewing. The campus satellite dish permits students to watch live programming in all the modern foreign languages offered. In addition, our classrooms have multi-media capabilities and are equipped with computers and video projectors which allow us to use computer software, the web, or DVD’s in language instruction.

Faculty:

Matthew Turner, Interim Chair
Ph.D., Ohio University

Ahmad Azzam, Instructor of Arabic
Ph.D., Rajasthan University, India

Eric H. du Plessis, Professor of French
Ph.D., University of Virginia

I-Ping Fu, Associate Professor of Chinese
Ph.D., Virginia Tech

Blas Hernández, Associate Professor of Spanish
Ph.D., Cornell University

Marcela Howard, Adjunct Instructor of Spanish
M.A., Virginia Tech

Silvia Klaus-Gerosa, Instructor of German
M.A., Virginia Tech

Yelena Kulagina, Instructor of Russian
M.S., Radford University

Nancy Lopez-Romero, Instructor of Spanish
M.A., Virginia Tech

Rita Martin, Assistant Professor of Spanish
Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Julio Opazo, Instructor of Spanish
M.A., Appalachian State University

Alejandra Sobrado, Adjunct Instructor of Spanish
M.A., University of León (Spain)

Christine Steer, Adjunct Instructor of Latin and Classics
M.A., Cambridge University, England

Philip Sweet, Professor of German and French
Ph.D., University of Michigan

Marsha Taylor, Instructor of French
M.A., Virginia Commonwealth University